



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

R & D NEWS

ADJC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Janet Napolitano, Governor

Michael D. Branham, Director □ Dianne Gadow, Deputy Director

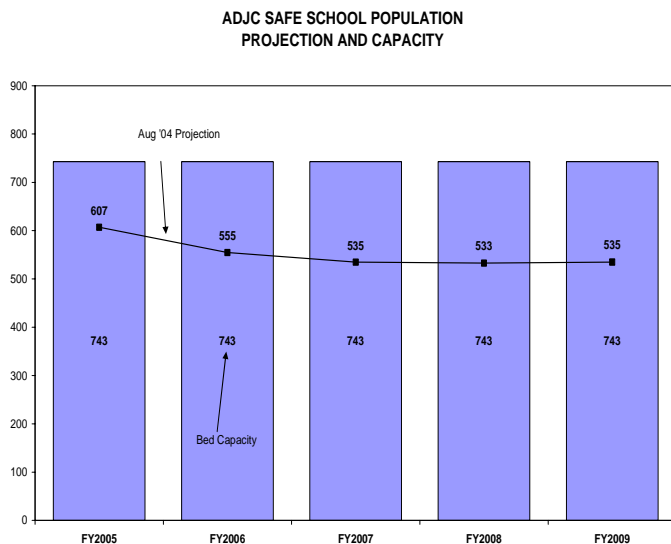
Volume V, Number 5

September-October 2004

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections * 1624 West Adams * Phoenix, Arizona 85007 * 602-542-2053

CURRENT ADJC RESEARCH

Figure 1



Stella Vasquez and John Vivian, *Secure Population Projections*, August 2004.

The ADJC institutional population is projected to decrease from an average of 607 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 to an average of 535 in FY 2009 (see Figure 1). The projection assumes ADJC admissions will initially decrease from 687 in FY 2004 to 628 in the first 12 months of the projection, and then increase proportionately with the projected increase in Arizona's at-risk juvenile population. The projection also assumes no changes in rates observed during 2004 for the following three key factors: the relative proportion of ADJC admissions given court-ordered minimum sentences, the actual lengths of stay served by ADJC commitments, and the number of juveniles returned each month as parole violators. The proportion of parole violators designated for parole revocation or parole reinstatement will remain at the same level although the lengths of stay for a proportion of the parole revocations were reduced to acknowledge the

expected lengths of stay for the new parole stabilization program.

Kathie Putrow and John Vivian, *Honors Program FY 2004: Evaluation Results*, September 2004.

Director Branham redesigned the ADJC awards program in 2004 and transformed it into the ADJC Annual Honors program. Fifty ADJC employees and guests who attended the recent ADJC Honors Ceremony completed evaluation forms, and R/D staff collected and tabulated the results. Almost everyone (94%) said that their satisfaction with the Honors Ceremony was good, very good or excellent. Most (86%) felt that the award recipients were appropriately honored or that the individuals receiving the awards deserved them (82%). More than three-quarters (78%) felt that the Herberger Theatre provided an appropriate setting for the Honors Ceremony, however, respondent comments were that future ceremonies should be conducted on one day.

Kate Comtois, Jessica Fisher, Jennifer Grimes, Veneranda Heffern, Mark LaBouchardiere, Rosemary Martin, Loren Petta, Jodi Sciandra and John Vivian, *Program Standards for Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)*, September 2004.

This group of eight ADJC employees and one outside expert met four times during the Summer of 2004 to develop 21 program standards for the DBT program. The program standards will allow ADJC to monitor the DBT program, and the monitoring of DBT program standards will help ensure that this program operates with integrity. Programs operating with integrity can undergo outcome evaluation studies. Sixteen of the 21

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

Who has a higher recidivism rate, females or males?

DBT program standards addressed implementation issues such as the frequency, duration and size of DBT groups, DBT group activities, and the frequency, duration and content of individual youth DBT skills training. Five of the 21 DBT program standards addressed training requirements for all staff assigned to DBT housing units, DBT group facilitators and individual youth DBT skills training. ADJC managers and staff who use the DBT program should embrace the standards and use them as their program framework.

JUVENILE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center, *Approaches to Assessing Juvenile Justice Program Performance*, OJJDP, July 2004.

The authors of this study identified three major methods of assessing program performance: monitoring, performance measurement and impact evaluation. Monitoring involves the continuous collection of information about the activities and operations of a program. Performance measurement is concerned with collecting information on whether a program is achieving its goals and objectives. Impact evaluation assesses the extent to which outcomes achieved were due to the program itself. The authors recommended that between 5% and 10% of a program's budget be devoted to evaluation.

Emily Gaardner, Nancy Rodriguez and Marjorie Zatz, *Criers, Liars and Manipulators: Probation Officers Views of Girls*, Justice Quarterly, September 2004.

Three Arizona State University (ASU) researchers reviewed the juvenile probation files of 174 females in Maricopa County, and they also interviewed the respective Probation Officers. Their research found three things. First, there was a gap between Probation Officers perceptions of females as being "whiny and manipulative" and what the researchers called the realities of their lives. "Although most officers were sympathetic to the girls' histories, a few believed that the abuse stories that girls told were untrue or exaggerated, or that girls were partially responsible for being abused." Second, the ASU researchers found a disconnect between Probation Officers views of the female's families as "trashy and irresponsible," and what the researchers called the realities of the girls family circumstances. Third, the authors found Maricopa County juvenile probation officers lacked knowledge and understanding of culturally and gender appropriate treatment programs. The researchers found a "severe lack of programming for girls. The majority of

Probation Officers in (the ASU) study could not name a single program designed specifically for girls."

Gail Wasserman, Susan Ko and Larkin McReynolds, *Assessing the Mental Health Status of Youth in Juvenile Justice Settings*, OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, August 2004.

Mental health disorders are common among youth in the juvenile justice system, and the authors of this report used the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC) to assess the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among 296 males admitted to juvenile justice assessment centers in Illinois and New Jersey. The authors note that oftentimes, mental health disorders contribute to a juveniles delinquent actions and the mental health disorders are likely to interfere with rehabilitative programming. "A common practice has been to rely on a youth's history of using mental health services as an indicator of whether the youth currently needs services." The DISC instrument measures the existence of 20 different psychiatric disorders, and they found that 67.2% of the juveniles evidenced some disorder while 32.8% evidenced no disorder. The most prevalent disorder was substance abuse (49.3%), and among substance abusers, the most common problems were marijuana dependence (25.7%), alcohol abuse (17%) and marijuana abuse (15%). Disruptive disorders (31.8%) constituted the second most common type of disorder, and among disruptive disorders, the most common were conduct (31.7%), oppositional defiant (2.8%) and ADHD (2.3%). Anxiety (18.9%) constituted the third most common disorder, and they included specific phobia (8.5%), panic (4.5%), obsessive-compulsive (4.5%) and posttraumatic stress (4.5%). Mood disorders constituted the least common type of disorder in this group of 296 males, and includes mood disorder was major depressive (7.2%) or manic episode (2.1%). These disorder rates were lower than previous studies because the juveniles were only asked about their behavior during the 30 days prior to their commitment.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

Males have a higher recidivism rate. A total of 945 juveniles were released from ADJC secure care in 2000. We found that 25.6% of the females, and 46.6% of the males returned to custody within three years.

Please let us know how we're doing, and fill out a customer service survey at:

[http://intranet.adjc.az.gov/SupportServices/R&D/Surveys/](http://intranet.adjc.az.gov/SupportServices/R&D/Surveys/CustomerServiceSurvey.asp)
[CustomerServiceSurvey.asp](http://intranet.adjc.az.gov/SupportServices/R&D/Surveys/CustomerServiceSurvey.asp)